

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 PC-10 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 DRC-01 /169 W

----- 022756

R 031541Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8802

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV ET

SUBJECT: THE CURRENT SCENE

REFS: (A) ADDIS 4858; (B) ASMARA 307

1. LAST 48 HOURS MILITARY HAVE MADE CONCENTRATED EFFORT SOLVE STRIKE PROBLEM WITH ONLY PARTIAL SUCCESS. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS STILL MORE OR LESS ON STRIKE. EELPA, WATER AND IHA ALSO ONLY PARTIALLY STAFFED. CELUE HS LET IT BE KNOWN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IT REFUSES BE MADE SCAPEGOAT FOR GENERAL UNREST AND RELATED STRIKES BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. WE HAVE REASON BELIEVE THAT CELU'S LEADERSHIP HAS NOTIFIED ITS AFFILIATES TO STAND BY FOR CONCERTED ACTION TO PROTECT TRADE UNION ACHIEVEMENTS IF ATTEMPT MADE BY AUTHORITIES TO CRACK DOWN ON CELU. MILITARY MAY HAVE GOTTEN THE MESSAGE. LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE FORMED WITHIN MOD TRYING TO HELP PRINCIPALS NEGOTIATE ARRANGEMENT INTENDED TO GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK WITHOUT FURTHER CONFRONTATION. WE HEAR THAT THEY ARE SUGGESTING TO WORKERS RECOURSE TO COURTS WITH APPEAL

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AGAINST MNCD RULING THAT EMPLOYEES OF PARASTATAL ORGANIZATIONS

INELIGIBLE UNDER CURRENT LAW FORM UNIONS; OR RECOURSE TO PARLIAMENT FOR NEW LEGISLATION. CELU'S POSITION, ON OTHER HAND, IS THAT WORKERS SHOULD BOTH GET BACK TO WORK AND GET A SQUARE DEAL. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS APPROACH WILL BEAR FRUIT. PROBLEM IS THAT MILITARY PRESSURE PLAY HAS GOTTEN PEOPLE'S BACKS UP AND THEY ARE ANGRY.

2. ADDIS HAS BEEN CALM TODAY. MILITARY PATROLS MUCH LESS IN EVIDENCE EXCEPT AT POT OFFICE, WHERE WORK STOPPAGE VIRTUALLY TOTAL BY NOON. ON OTHER HAND, THERE NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT GOVERNMENT'S INEFFECTIVENESS LESSENING. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, ONE ACCORDINGLY HEARS INCREASING TALK OF THE NECESSITY FOR A MILITARY TAKEOVER TO GET THINGS BACK ON RAILS. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT, TO WHICH WE INCLINED GIVE CREDENCE, THAT SAME GROUP SENIOR OFFICERS FROM ALL MILITARY SERVICES WHICH RECENTLY WENT TO EMPEROR TO DEMAND AUTHORITY FOR ARREST FORMER MINISTERS AGAIN MEETING TODAY.
WYMAN

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